

Message Text

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ACTION SAB-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 /059 W

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P R 021940Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3175

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 1186

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, HN

SUBJECT: U.S.-PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: ARRANGEMENTS FOR
GUARDING COLOMBIAN RIGHTS UNDER THE URRUTIA-THOMSON TREATY.

FOR AMBASSADOR BUNKER FROM BELL

PANAMANIAN DEPUTY NEGOTIATOR GONZALEZ-REVILLA HAS CONFIRMED
THAT PANAMA WILL NOT OBJECT TO INCORPORATING EXISTING COLOMBIAN
RIGHTS RESPECTING THE CANAL ENTERPRISE
(TRANSIT, RAILROAD,
ZONE MARKET) INTO THE NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES,
BY TREATY OR OTHERWISE. HE SAID HE GATHERED THAT THE UNITED STATES
FELT RATHER STRONGLY ABOUT THIS, AND I SAID
THAT WAS SO, ADDING THAT NATURALLY WE WOULD NOT SEEK THOSE RIGHTS
FOR COLOMBIA BEYOND THE LIFETIME OF A NEW TREATY.

PANAMA NEEDS THE UNITED STATES' HELP, HOWEVER, IN HANDLING THIS
MATTER. TORRIJOS WOULD RUN INTO SERIOUS DOMESTIC TROUBLE WERE
THESE RIGHT TO BE ENJOYED ONLY BY COLOMBIANS, WITH WHOM THE
PANAMANIAN PEOPLE ARE NOT EXACTLY ENCHANTED, GONZALEZ
EXPLAINED. CONSEQUENTLY, WOULD THE UNITED STATES OBJECT TO
MAKING THESE RIGHTS EXTENSIVE TO PANAMA'S TWO NEIGHBORS, COLOMBIA
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AND COSTA RICA? VENEZUELA AND PERHAPS SOME OF THE OTHER CENTRAL

AMERICAN STATES WOULD BE ASKED TO BE THE CONCEPTUAL, NOT LEGAL,
"PADRINOS" OF THIS ARRANGEMENT.

HE EXPLAINED ALSO THAT THE RIGHTS WOULD NOT BE COMPOSED PRECISELY
AS THEY ARE NOW. HE DOUBTED THAT THE RAILROAD RIGHTS (WHICH OF
COURSE ARE FOR EMERGENCY USE ONLY) WOULD BE INCLUDED. (I COMMENTED
THAT SINCE THERE IS TO BE NO CANAL ZONE, THERE WILL BE NO
"CANAL ZONE MARKET" TO WHICH COLOMBIA AND COSTA RICA COULD HAVE
PREFERENTIAL ACCESS FOR THEIR GOODS, SO THAT ALL WE SEEM TO BE
TALKING ABOUT IS FREE TRANSIT RIGHTS THROUGH THE WATERWAY.
GONZALEZ AGREED--"TENTATIVELY").

IF THERE IS ANY REASON WHY IN YOUR JUDGMENT OR THE ARA OR L BUREAUS'
WE WOULD OBJECT TO MAKING RIGHTS FOR COLOMBIA EXTENSIVE ALSO
TO COSTA RICA, WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED NOW. ASSUME THAT
SINCE WE HAVE FOR A VERY LONG TIME BEEN ACCORDING DISCRIMINATORY
TREATMENT TO COLOMBIA, (THE NEUTRALITY PROVISIONS OF THE HAY-
PAUNCEFOR TREATY NOTWITHSTANDING), ACCORDING IT IN THE FUTURE
TO COSTA RICA AS WELL WOULD NOT BOTHER US. FROM OTHER SOURCES I
UNDERSTAND THAT COSTA RICA WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE NEGLIGIBLE, IF ANY,
USE OF THIS DISCRIMINATORY
TREATMENT.

THOUGH PANAMA PROPOSES TO ADDRESS THIS MATTER IN SOME WAY
AT THE MARCH 23 MEETING HERE OF AREA PRESIDENTS, PANAMA FULLY
UNDERSTANDS THAT IT CANNOT COMMIT ITSELF TO ANY ARRANGEMENTS
IN THIS RESPECT WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

TACK WILL WISH TO EXPLAIN HIS THINKING TO YOU IN DETAIL
DURING YOUR NEXT VISIT.
JORDEN

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